



Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

Release Highlights: June 16, 2006

MONTANA

County Business Patterns, 2004 <http://ceic.mt.gov/CntyBusPat.asp>

Bucking the national trend, Montana actually added 40 new manufacturing establishments between 2003 and 2004. Moreover, manufacturing employment grew by 3.3%, the 3rd highest in the United States. Nationally, more than 2,760 manufacturing businesses closed between 2003 and 2004 and more than 310,000 employees no longer work in this industry. Our neighbors to the east also fared better than the nation. South Dakota added 3,127 employees despite losing 15 businesses while North Dakota added 983 workers.

Manufacturing Industry

State	2004		2003 - 2004	
	Number of Employees	Number of Establishments	% Change in Employees	% Change in Establishments
Idaho	60,102	1,805	-2.7%	1.5%
Montana	18,428	1,267	0.9%	3.3%
North Dakota	23,558	741	4.4%	3.8%
South Dakota	39,639	923	8.6%	-1.6%
Wyoming	10,244	546	-1.2%	-2.2%

According to the 2004 County Business Patterns released by the U.S. Census Bureau, 314,865 Montanans worked at 34,686 private business establishments in 2004, 3.9% and 2.5% increases respectively from 2003. This report does not include sole proprietors or those businesses without any employees.

Six businesses in Montana employ 1,000 or more workers with five of those in the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry. Cascade, Flathead and Missoula Counties each have one hospital with 1,000 or more employees while Yellowstone County has two. Stillwater County's palladium and platinum mine also employs 1,000 or more workers.

Construction industry employment grew by 8% between 2003 and 2004, the largest growth rate in the state. This industry also added 363 new establishments, again the most in the state. In conjunction with the Construction Industry, Real Estate employment grew by 5.8% with 61 new businesses. Retail Trade employment registered the largest increase in 2004, adding 2,408 workers. Second was Health Care and Social Assistance, raising their workforce by 2,005 employees. The second most establishments added between 2003 and 2004 was in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry, with 139 new businesses.

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